

SPECIAL 50 PAGE FANTASY NOVEL!

WOT STUFF

NUMBER THREE

\$1.50



DORRIN
© 1976



HOT STUF' #3

Winter 1976

\$1.50 per copy

EDITOR and PUBLISHER

Sal Quartuccio

Published occasionally
by Sal Quartuccio •
770 East 45th Street •
Brooklyn, New York 11203

Entire Contents Copyright
© 1976 Sal Quartuccio.
All Rights reserved
Nothing may be reprinted.
Printed in the U.S.A.

Individual copies available
from above address

BY A ROUTE OBSCURE AND LONELY,
HAUNTED BY ILL ANGELS ONLY,
WHERE AN EIDOLON, NAMED NIGHT,
ON A BLACK THRONE REIGNS UPRIGHT,
I HAVE REACHED THESE LANDS BUT NEWLY
FROM A WILD WEIRD
CLIME THAT LIETH, SUBLIME,
OUT OF SPACE - OUT OF TIME
...EDGAR ALLAN POE
DREAM LAND

FRONT COVER

Rich Corben

PROLOGUE

Story - Herb Arnold

Art - Tim Kirk

THE PAWN

Story and Art - Stan Dresser

THE DWELLERS IN THE DARK

Story - Rich Corben and Herb Arnold

Art - Rich Corben

THE FEASTER OF SOULS

Story and Art - Herb Arnold

BACK COVER

Herb Arnold

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Bob Keenan

Distributed Exclusively by:

EAST COAST: Phil Seuling •
Box 177 Coney Island Station •
Brooklyn, New York 11224

WEST COAST: Bud Plant •
Box 1886 • Grass Valley, CA. 95945

EIRVTHIA

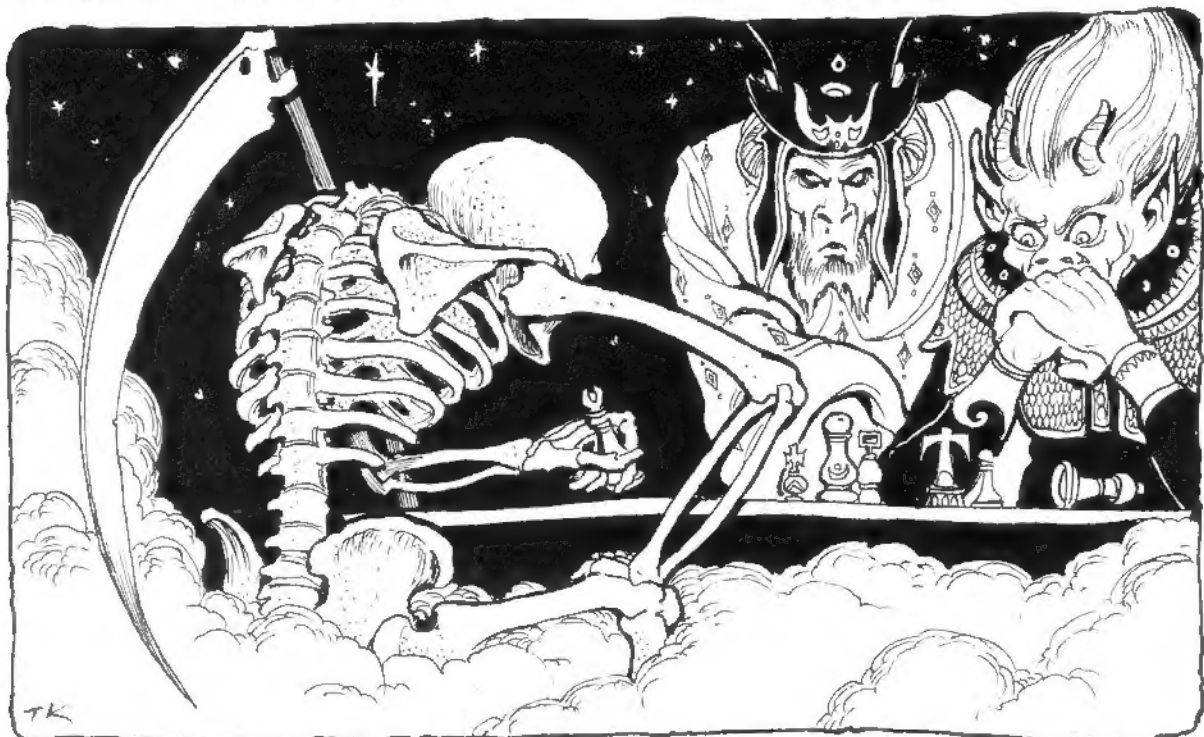


SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST UNFATHOMABLE WELL OF TIME AND SPACE EXISTS A WORLD TOTALLY ALIEN TO OUR OWN WORLD, AND YET VERY AKIN. SPINNING, WHIRLING IN ITS OWN SPHERE OF EXISTANCE IS THE WORLD KNOWN AS EIRVTHIA.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, IN A DREAM, IN SOME HALF-FORGOTTEN VAGUE THOUGHT LIES EIRVTHIA--AND THERE ONE MUST LOOK FOR IT. IT EXISTS FARAWAY, AND YET IS CLOSE AT HAND. IT IS OLD AND LONG FORGOTTEN, YET EVER YOUNG AND IMMEMORIAL. A PARALLEL WORLD, IT IS LIKE A DISTORTED REFLECTION OF OUR OWN PLANET WITH BOTH THE GOOD AND THE BAD.



OUR WORLD COMPARED TO EIRVTHIA IS BUT A MUNDANE DESIGN. EIRVTHIA'S PEOPLES ALL HOLD DIFFERENT VIEWS OF A GOAL OF LIFE. VIEWS MADE DIFFERENT THROUGH DIVERSE RELIGIONS, PHILOSOPHIES AND POLITICS. BUT SUCH DIVISIONS HAVE ALWAYS PRECIPITATED THESE PEOPLES INTO CONFLICTS WITH ONE ANOTHER. THEIR RULES REACH POWERFUL CULMINATIONS IN ONE AGE, ONLY TO LATER FALL BACK IN REGRESSION IN THE FOLLOWING AGE.



THE PEOPLES OF EIRVTHIA ARE CERTAIN THEY ARE FOLLOWING THESE GOALS - THEIR GOALS; THEIR DESTINIES, ON THEIR OWN MOTIVES, LEADING THEIR OWN LIVES. YET ALL THEIR DESTINIES, ALL LIVING AND DYING, ALL WAR AND PEACE ARE A PART OF A GAME...THE GAME OF THE GODS. EIRVTHIA IS AT THE CENTER OF THIS GAME, IT IS THE PLAYING BOARD. THE DESIGNS OF MEN ARE MERELY THE MOVES OF THE GODS. THE OPPONENTS OF THE GODS ARE THE DARK FORCES; THEIR MUTUAL CONTEMPT FOR ONE ANOTHER SPANS THE AGES AND THE COSMOS.



WITHIN THE FORCES OF THE GODS AND THE DARK FORCES RESIDED THE PRIMAL POWERS OF ORDER AND CHAOS. THE GODS OPTED FOR CONTROL AND ORDERED EXISTENCE; THE DARK FORCES WANTED DISORDER AND NON-EXISTENCE. FOR MILLENIA THEY ARGUED THEIR CASES OVER THE GAME BOARD OF THE COSMOS, USING WORLDS AND MEN FOR PLAYING PIECES.

AND YET, WITHIN THE DARK FORCES, SIDED THOUGH THEY WERE, WAS DISORDER FOR NOT ONE ELEMENTAL, DEVIL OR EVIL GOD COULD LONG BE GOVERNED BY A SELECT FEW. ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE DARK FORCES, THE ARCH-FIEND, UZZAKH, WANTED HIS EVIL FOLK Banded AS ONE AGAINST THE GODS. SO TO ENFORCE LOYALTY HE TREACHEROUSLY TRICKED HIS FELLOWS INTO BEING PLAYING PIECES IN THE GAME OF THE GODS. HIS FELLOW DEVILS WERE IMPRISONED WITHIN CUNNINGLY WROUGHT, BEAUTIFUL JEWELS; AND THE JEWELS WERE SOWN AS SEEDS AMONG THE STARS.....



THESE BRILLIANT DEMON JEWELS FELL TO EIRVTHIA WHERE THEY COULD BE OPENED BY MEN WHO POSSESSED FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE. IN THIS WAY DID THE DARK FORCES EITHER RECRUIT HUMANS TO THEIR FOLLOWING OR DESTROY THEM FOR FOOLISH MORTAL MEDDLINGS. THE GODS THOUGHT THIS A GOOD ADDITION TO THE GAME AND COUNTERED WITH THEIR OWN ADDITION. . . .



THE GODS GAVE SELECT MORTALS AWESOME SUPERNATURAL POWERS, AND THESE FEW WERE WHITE WIZARDS, WARRIORS AND ADVENTURERS, MEN OF GREAT FIGHTING STRENGTH WERE SELECTED AS RECIEVERS OF POWERS DIRECTLY FROM THE GODS AND THUS BECAME DEMI-GODS. THUS, BOTH GOOD AND BAD MORTALS BELIEVED THEY DIRECTED THEIR OWN LIVES, WHEN ACTUALLY THEY WERE BUT ACCOMPLISHING THE MOVES AND COUNTER MOVES OF GOD AND DEVIL IN THE GREAT GAME OF THE COSMOS.



EARTHIA HAS ENDURED WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE HANDS OF MEN, AND CITIES OF GREAT GRANDEUR HAVE RISEN OVER THE MILLENIA, AND ALWAYS THE GRANDEUR FADES AND THE CITIES FALL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER MARVELS . . .



THE MARVELS AND WONDERS OF THIS WORLD ARE MANY AND ITS FOLKLORE AND HISTORY ARE FILLED WITH HEROIC FIGURES. SOME ARE HUMAN HEROES, OTHERS ARE HALF-HUMAN, AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE AND WERE INHUMAN.



THESE HEROES STAND IN ALLIGENCE TO THE GODS, AND LIKEWISE THE EVIL FORCES HAVE THEIR FOLLOWERS, OR PAWNS, IN THE FORM OF TYRANTS, BLOOD THIRSTY WARRIORS, WIZARDS, AND NECROMANCERS. THESE INFAMOUS FIGURES ALSO FILL LEGEND AND HISTORY.



ONE OF THE MOST DREAD AND TERRIFYING FIGURES OF FOLKLORE WAS ROODMOTH URTHRUK, CALLED THE "FEASTER OF SOULS". THIS WIZARD WAS AN ESPECIAL FAVORITE OF THE DARK FORCES AND IN TRADE FOR AWFUL KNOWLEDGE HE WAS TO PERFORM AN ABOMINABLE TASK TO LAST FOR AGES. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK THE WIZARD, HIMSELF, HAD TO USE MEN AS PAWNS IN A GAME ALL OF HIS OWN.



THOSE MORTALS MANIPULATED BY THE WIZARD MADE PRECIOUS LITTLE COMPARED TO WHAT THEY WOULD LOOSE TO THE DARK FORCES, WHO BLESSED ROODMOTH'S FOUL GAME. THESE EVIL ONES BLOATED ON THE CORRUPTION THAT INFESTED EACH LAND ROODMOTH TOOK AND WITHERED. THE WIZARD WOULD SEARCH FOR NEW LANDS TO DRAW OFF WEALTH AND STRENGTH. HE FOUND JUST SUCH A FITTING COUNTRY IN THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT OF ESTRAVAN. . . .



PAWNA

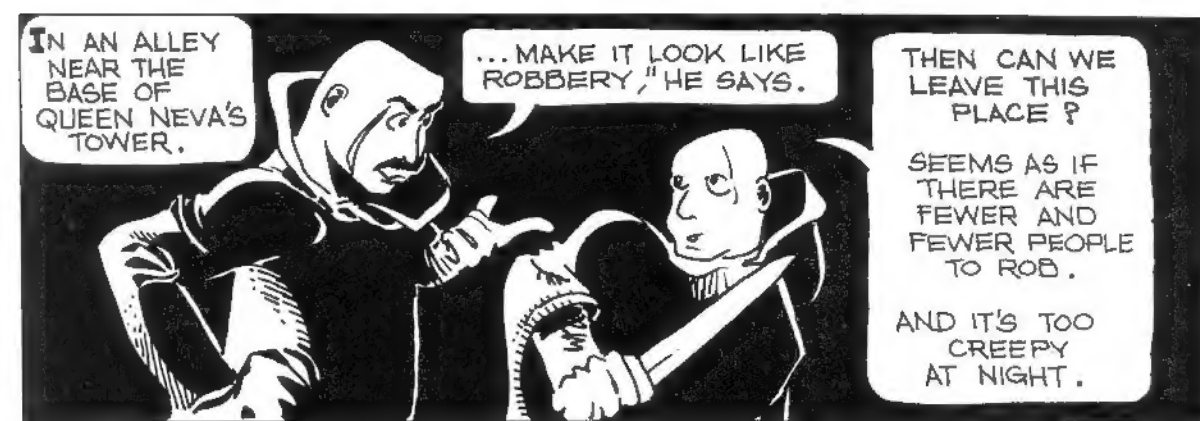


THE PROSPEROUS KINGDOM
OF QUEEN NEVA -
DECLINED IN POPULATION
(THEY JUST DISAPPEARED)
- AS IT ACCUMULATED
THE WEALTH OF THE
COUNTRYSIDE .



I HAVE PAID TWO
ASSASSINS TO
" KILL " THE PRINCE

- JUST MAKE
SURE YOU ARE
THERE
TO " SAVE " HIM .



IN AN ALLEY
NEAR THE
BASE OF
QUEEN NEVA'S
TOWER .

... MAKE IT LOOK LIKE
ROBBERY , " HE SAYS .

THEN CAN WE
LEAVE THIS
PLACE ?

SEEMS AS IF
THERE ARE
FEWER AND
FEWER PEOPLE
TO ROB .

AND IT'S TOO
CREEPY
AT NIGHT .



THE AFFAIR BETWEEN
PRINCE SARIN OF HOTSPUR
AND
QUEEN NEVA OF EARTHVA'S
SMALL KINGDOM BY THE
DESERT OF SCARS —
WAS ABOUT TO END.



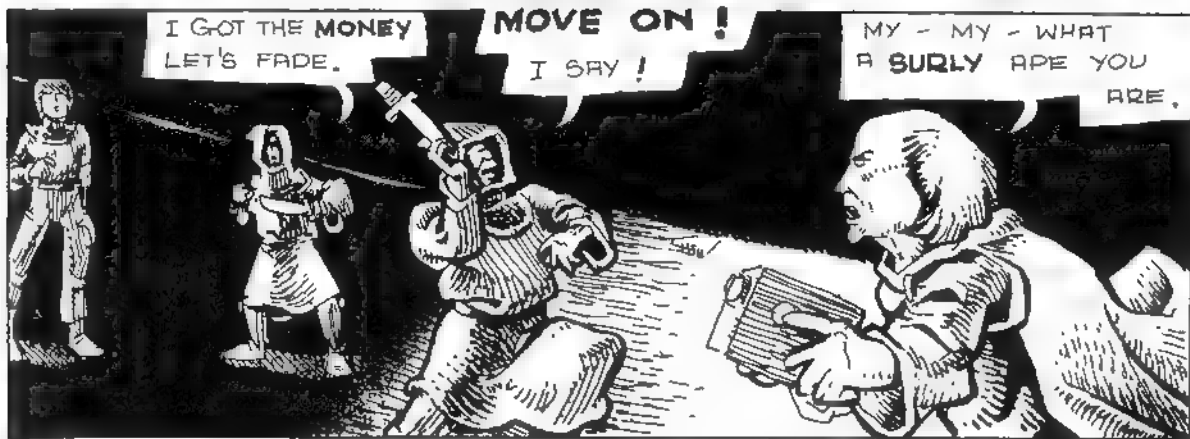
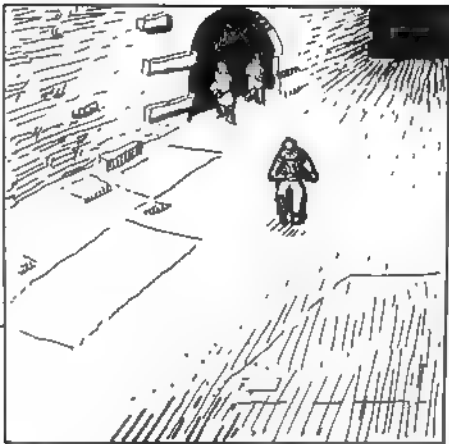
HAVEN'T WE ANYTHING TO
SAY TO EACH OTHER?

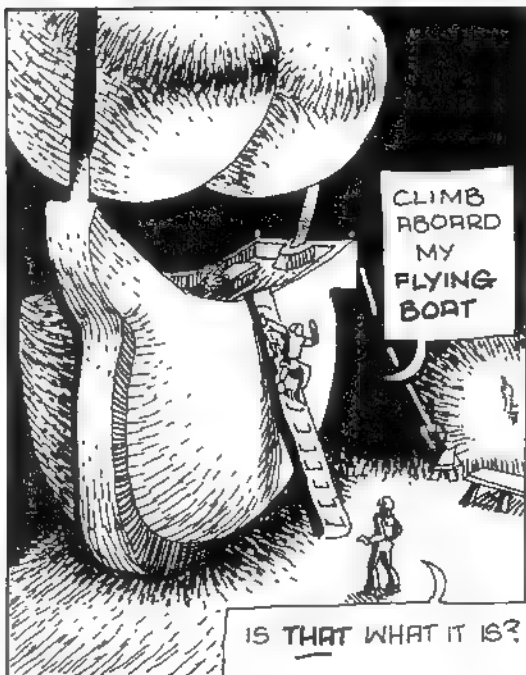
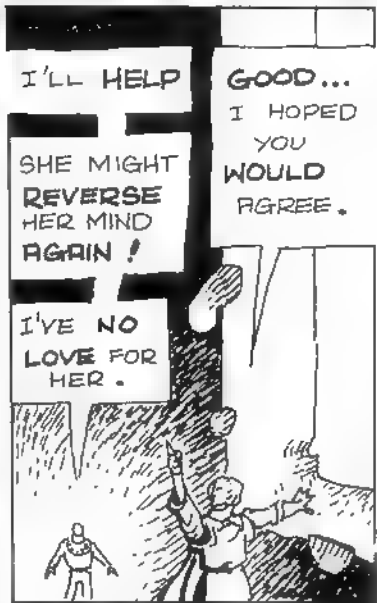
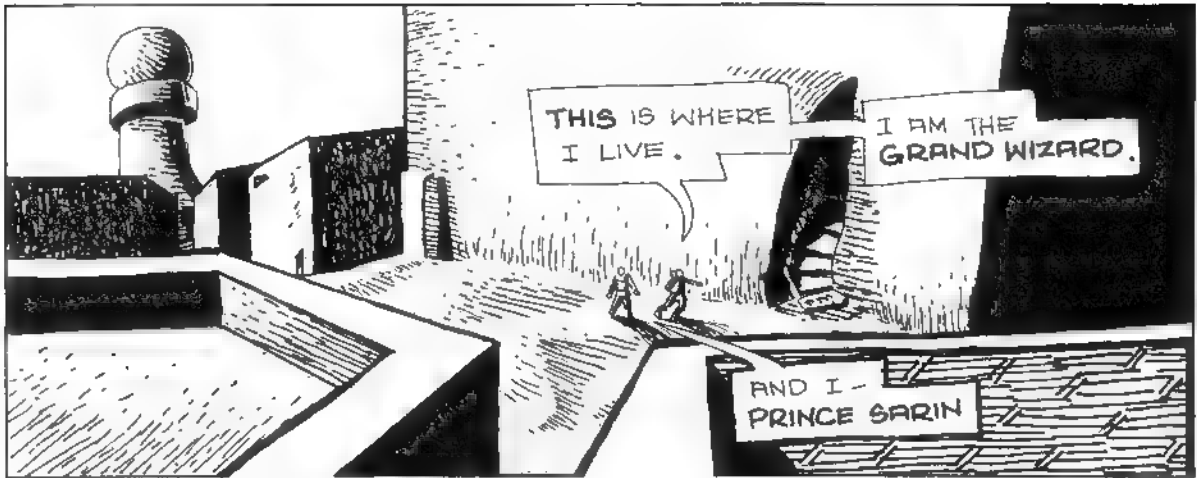


NO ———
I AM FINISHED
WITH YOU!

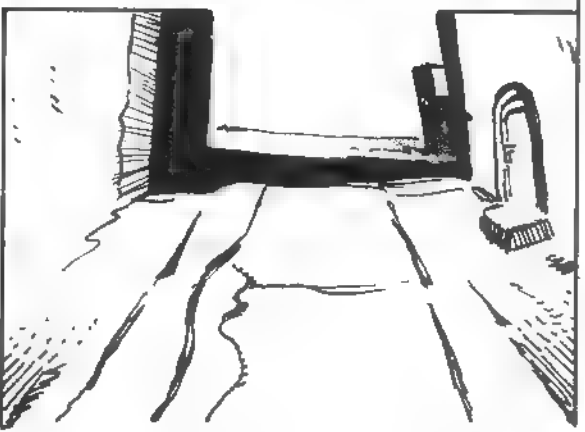
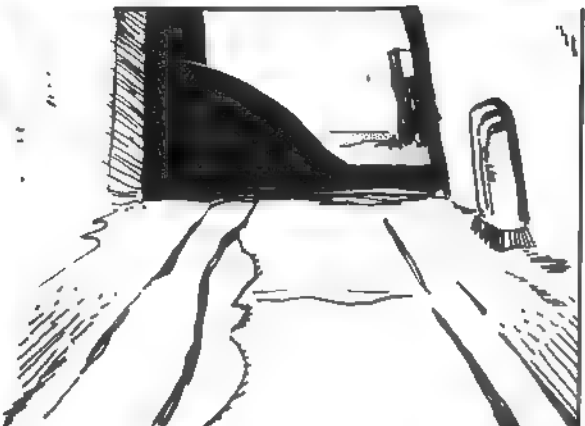
FINISHED.
— AT LAST.



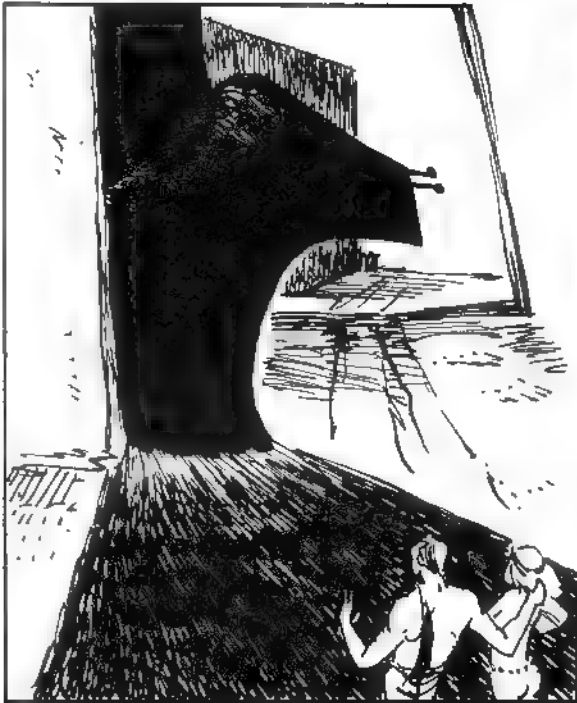


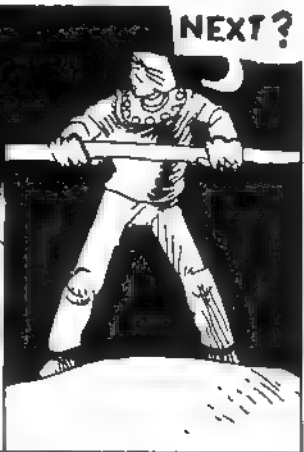
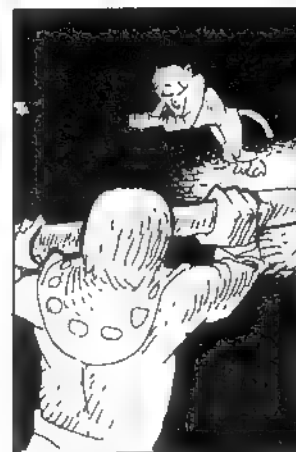
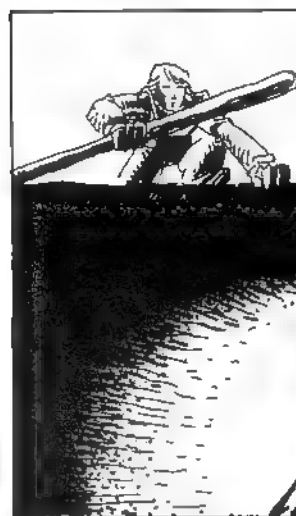
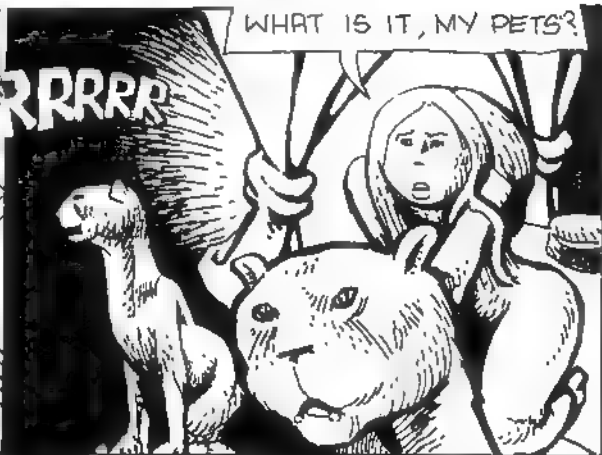
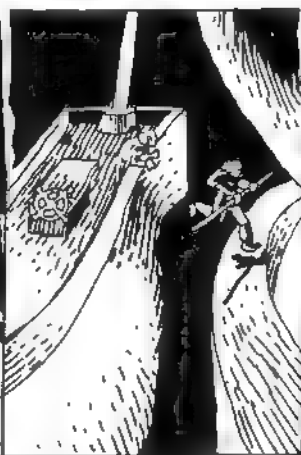
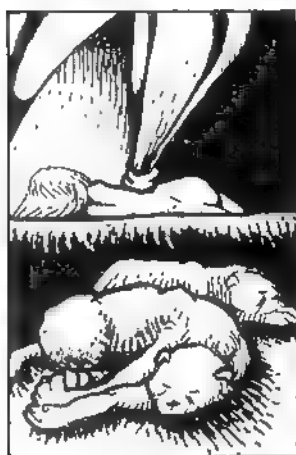
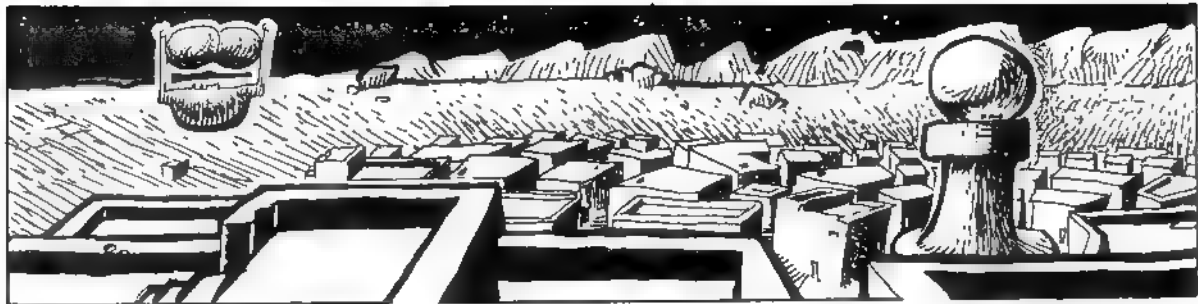


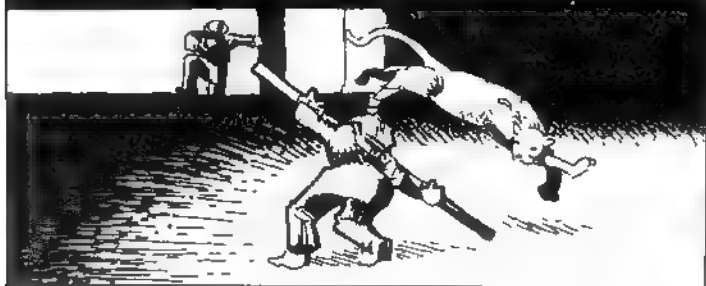
IN THE STREETS
BELOW,
THE SHADOWY
HORROR
WAS ABOUT TO
CLAIM
THREE MORE
VICTIMS.











GOOD WORK!

ROODMOTH URTHRUK
WILL BE PROUD OF
YOU WHEN HE
HEARS WE HAVE
REPLACED THE
QUEEN.



PRINCE SARIN - YOU ARE
GOING TO BE TRICKED LIKE
I WAS.



NOW - FINALLY - WE
COME TO THE NASTY
BUSINESS OF ELIMINATING
YOU - QUEEN NEVA!

SO - WE WILL BE
FREE OF YOUR RULE.



WRONG - THE WIZARD
WANTS TO PUT
YOU IN MY
PLACE -

TO BE A
PUPPET
OF
HIS MAGIC!

IS THAT
TRUE?



YES ..

YOU..

FOOL.

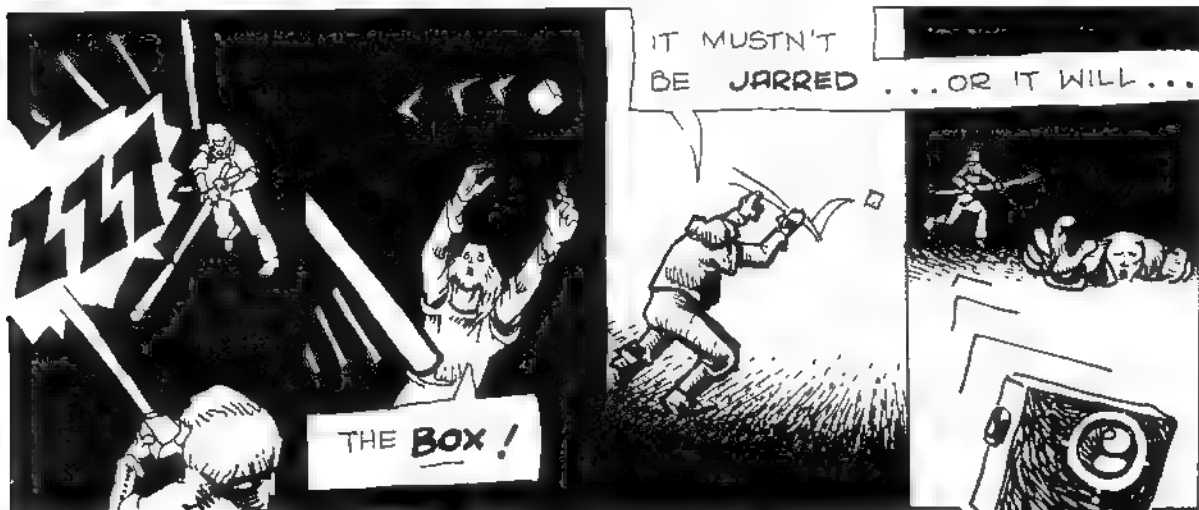
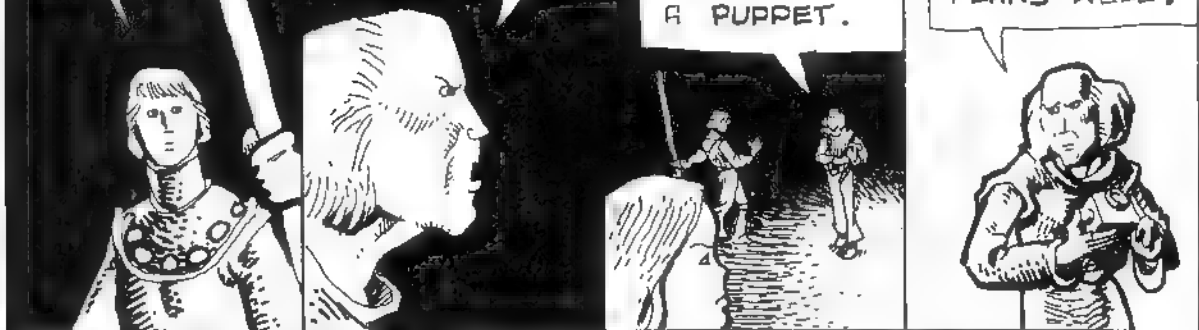


WHAT?!

EVER SINCE SHE
REFUSED TO
OBEY ME...

I VOWED TO
KILL HER
AND REPLACE
HER WITH
A PUPPET.

YOU - MY FINE
IDEALIST - HAVE
SERVED MY
PLANS WELL.



THE PEOPLE OF THE
CITY SOON DISAPPEARED
NO ONE ELSE ENTERED
IT AGAIN - LATER THE
COUNTRYSIDE WAS
NAMED - THE DESERT
OF SPIRITS.

Griffen



ANOTHER CAPITOL FELL UNDER THE WITHERING GRIP OF ROODMOTH URTHRUK AND IT BECAME DESERTED AND HAUNTED.



YET THOUGH THE CITY WAS DEAD THE COUNTRY WAS NOT AND ROODMOTH STAYED ON BEHIND, WORKING THE TASK THE DARK FORCES HAD SET HIM CENTURIES BEFORE.



AGES PASSED, THE RUINS REMAINED, THE JUNGLE EXISTED, AND THE WIZARD STAYED HIDDEN, BUSY AT HIS TASK. THOSE WHO TROUBLED HIS WORK MET UNPLEASANT FATES. . .



PICTA RICHARD V. GOWLEY



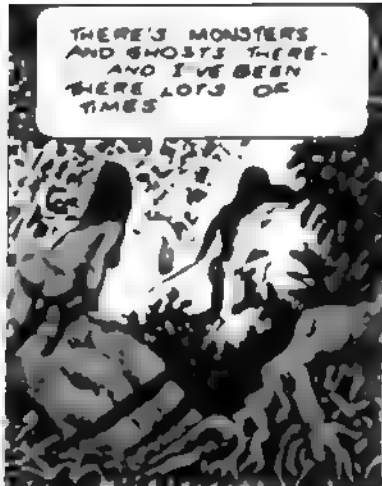
THE DWELLER IN THE DARK



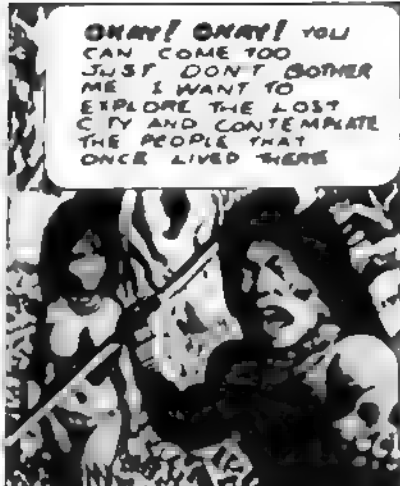
WELL, THE CHIEF SAID
YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED
TO GO THERE CAUSE
IT'S TOO CLOSE TO
THE LAND OF THE
JIVANTES



THERE'S MONSTERS
AND GHOSTS THERE-
AND I'VE BEEN
THERE LOTS OF
TIMES



OHAY! OHAY! YOU
CAN COME TOO
JUST DON'T BOTHER
ME I WANT TO
EXPLORE THE LOST
CITY AND CONTEMPLATE
THE PEOPLE THAT
ONCE LIVED THERE

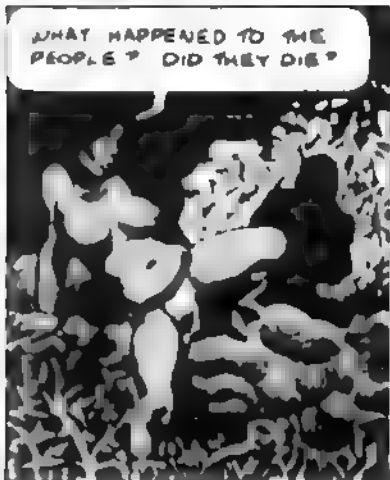


LISTEN! THE SILENCE.
NO BIRD SONG NO
MONKEY TALK



GEE IT IS KIND OF
SCAREY, ISN'T IT? I
MEAN, I'M NOT SCARED
BUT I BET MY LITTLE
BROTHER WOULD BE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
PEOPLE? DID THEY DIE?



NO I THINK THEY
JUST LEFT.




THEY WERE AFRAID
OF... SOMETHING






HUH? STRANGE BOATS
TIED OVER THERE.


I HEAR
VOICES



THYRAIDES, I'LL
FLAY YOU ALIVE
IF THIS IS A WILD
GOOSE CHASE.
YOU SCHOLARS
HAVE A REPUTATION
AS SCATTERBRAINS!




NO, SIRE IT IS AS I SAID. **GOLD!**
THE BOOKS, MY EARLIER EXPLORATIONS
UNCOVERED, TELL THE TALE. IN THAT
JUNGLE LIES A LOST CITY AND IN A
GREAT BUILDING WE'LL FIND MORE
GOLD THAN EVER SEEN BY
CIVILIZED MAN.



ACCORDING TO LEGEND THERE
FLOURISHED A MIGHTY CIVILIZATION
HERE SOME THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
HIGHLY DEVELOPED IN CULTURE, THEIR
GREATEST ART WAS FINE WORKMAN-
SHIP IN GOLDSMITHING... AND
THEIR TREASURES AWAIT US.

VERY WELL,
LEAD ME TO
IT

I SHALL
FOLLOW
THEM.



THE CITY GREW IN STRENGTH AND POWER,
YET SOMEHOW FELL INTO THE GRIP OF
A CORRUPT GOVERNING BODY. THE PEOPLE
WERE BURDONED BY UNFAIR LAWS AND
RULINGS, AND WERE BUT SLAVES FOR
THIS BRUTAL ARISTOCRACY!

THE GOLD WAS SEIZED OFTEN AS
TAXES AND STORED HEREIN.
STRANGELY ENOUGH, LIVESTOCK
ALSO WERE COLLECTED AND
PUT HERE --- YET WERE NEVER
SEEN AGAIN. MOST ODD!

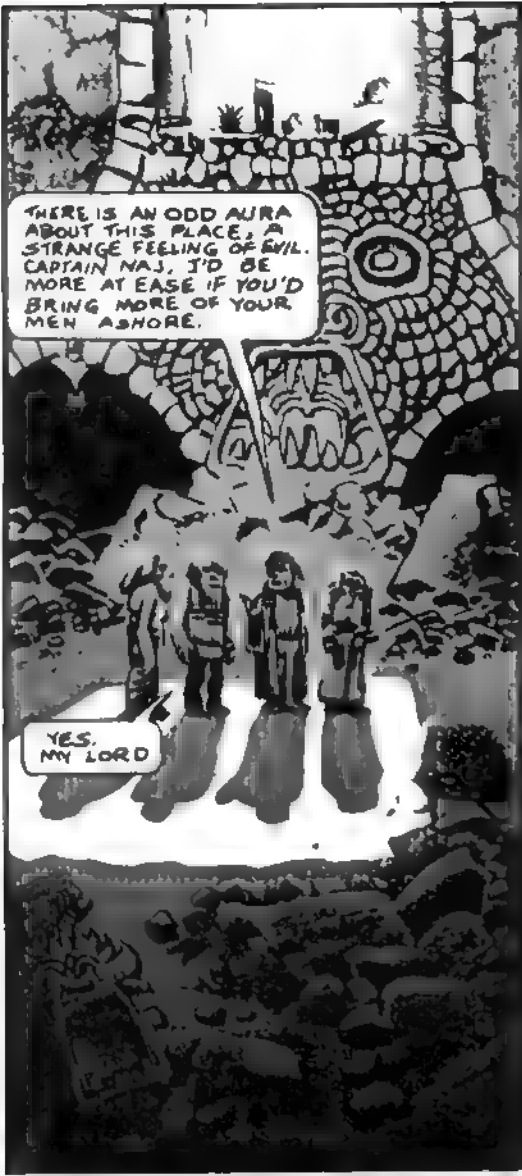
FINALLY SOME CATAclysmic
REVOLT DESTROYED THE RULING
BODY. THE PEOPLE SOON LEFT
OR DISAPPEARED. THE LAND
AROUND BECAME STERILE AND
DRY, AND WAS CALLED "THE
DESERT OF SPIRITS."

AGES HAVE SINCE COVERED
THE CITY AGAIN WITH JUNGLE
... ALL THAT REMAINS ARE THESE
MUTE STONES AND THE GOLD...



**GOLD! I SEE NO
GOLD!**

I BEG YOUR
INDULGENCE LORD
JAWTH. WE SHALL
FIND IT ON THE LOWER
LEVELS.



THERE IS AN ODD AURA ABOUT THIS PLACE, A STRANGE FEELING OF EVIL. CAPTAIN NAS, I'D BE MORE AT EASE IF YOU'D BRING MORE OF YOUR MEN ASHORE.

YES, MY LORD



AMOI THERE ON THE BEACH! SIGNAL THE SHIP FOR FIVE MORE GUARDS TO COME ASHORE!



I'LL BE GLAD TO SET ME FEET ON DRY LAND FOR A SPELL. HEY! LEND A HAND HERE WITHNA SKIF!

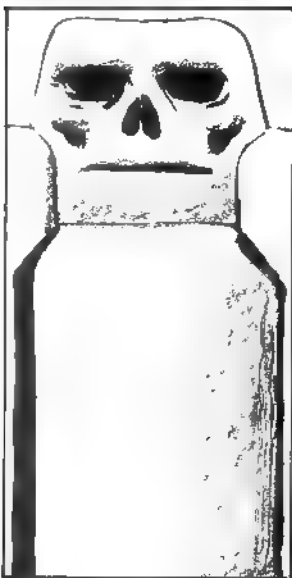
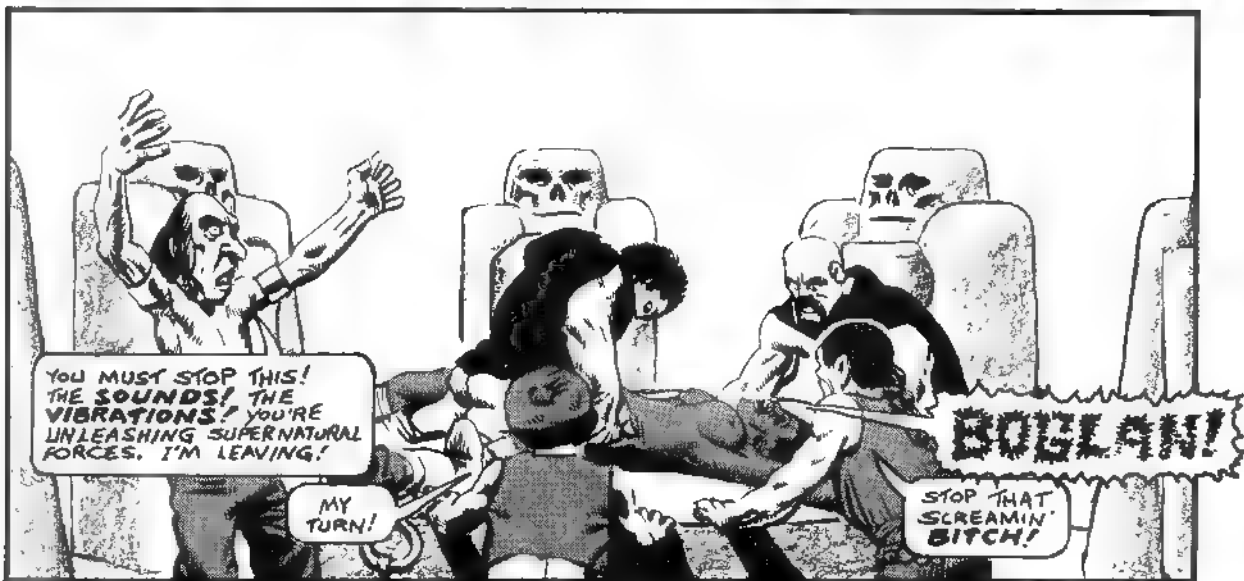
QUIET YA FOOL! THESE EYES SPY A PRIZE THAT WE CAN ALL SHARE.



HOLD IT YA BLASTED DUMMIES. YOU'LL HAVE HER WHOLE TRIBE OF SAVAGES DOWN ON US!

YOU BE WISE TO THINK OF THAT DOROK... AND WE ELECT YOU TO KEEP A WATCH OUT WHILE WE TAKE OUR PLEASURE.







WE MUST HIDE IN THIS BUILDING, THEN WE CAN STEAL AWAY AFTER THE EVIL MEN ARE GONE.

WHAT-?



RUT, ELIMINATE THESE TWO.



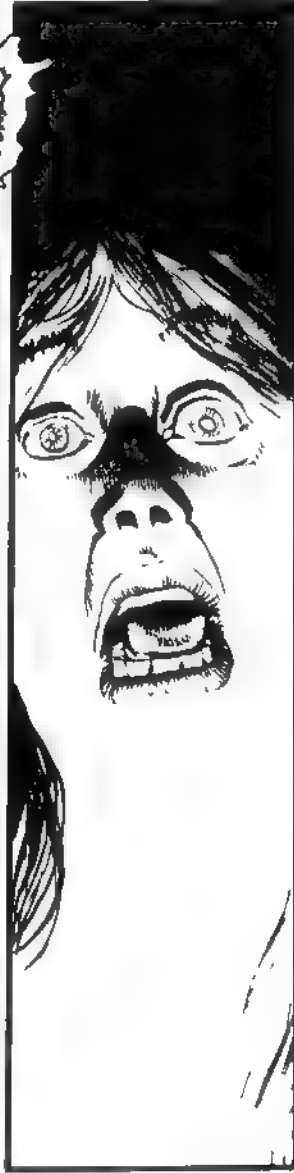
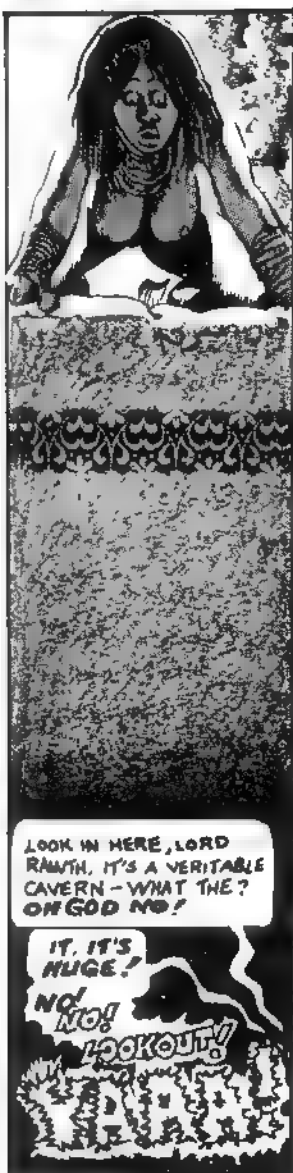
RUN NIPTA!



HOLD, YOU LITTLE MONKEYS. I HAVE LIVED THOUSANDS OF YEARS, SEEN THIS CITY RISE AND FALL, AND WHILE ROODMOTH URTHRUK WORKS HIS SORCERIES, NEITHER CIVILIZED MEN NOR IGNORANT SAVAGES MAY INTRUDE HERE.



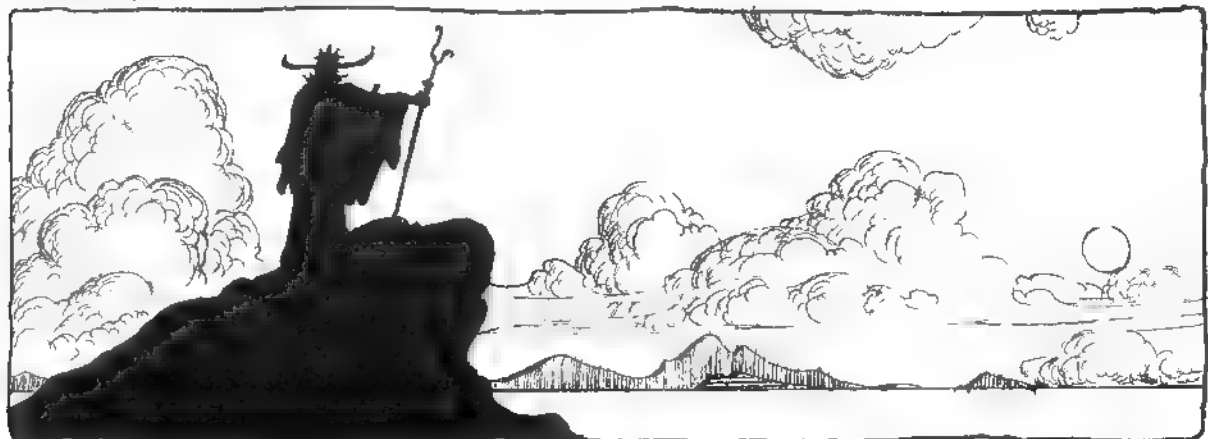




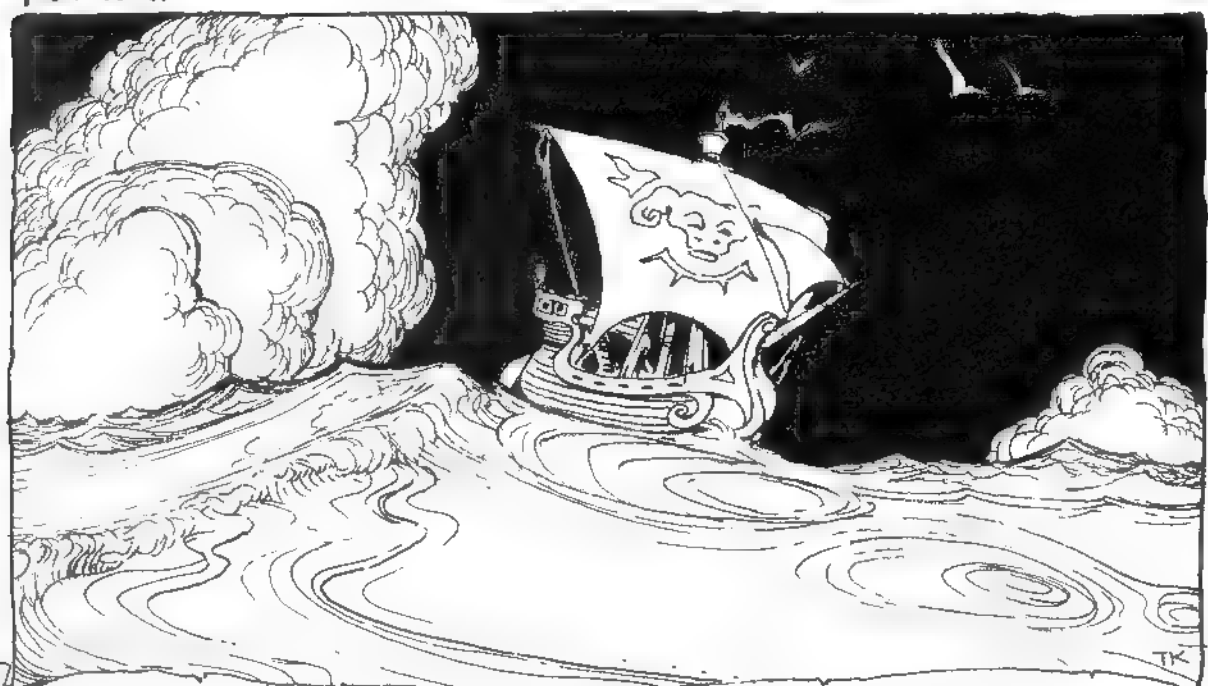




AGES PASSED AND ROODMOTH URTHRUK'S AWFUL SORCERY DRAINED THE VITALITY OUT OF THE LAND AND FINALLY, THE JUNGLE SHRIVELLED AND THE LAND BECAME DEAD. . . .



THE WIZARD TOOK HIS ODIOUS KINGDOM AND WORK AND MOVED INTO THE SEA WHOSE VITAL, FLOWING LIFE WOULD FEED HIS GROWING POWER.



AGES PASSED AGAIN AND ROODMOTH URTHRUK BECAME A FRAGMENT OF FOLKLORE. OTHER WIZARDS GREW IN AWFUL POWER. ONE OF THESE WAS RHOVAN STERNBLACK, WHO SOUGHT TO ENSNARE THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT OF ESTRAVAN IN HIS DARK POWERS. BUT AS THERE WERE WIZARDS AFOOT THERE ALSO FOLLOWED THOSE WHO HUNTED THEM. STERNBLACK'S TWO PERSISTENT ADVERSARIES WERE THE MERCENARY, GUNMETAL AND HIS COMPANION, THE SCHOLAR QUICKSILVER QUONYX, A HALF-HUMAN DABBLER IN WHITE MAGIC. THE SHADOW OF ROODMOTH URTHRUK WAS ABOUT TO CUT ACROSS THE PATH OF THEIR HUNT FOR STERNBLACK. . . .

The FEASTER of SOULS



IN THE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN COLORS CHANGE THE FESTIVAL OF PLENTY IS CELEBRATED ON THE ISLES OF TCHEBO. IN THE CAPITAL OF COCYRIDES ARE THE FESTIVITIES MOST BRILLIANT AND LAVISH. BUT MOST PHANTASMAGORICAL OF ALL WAS THE EXORBITANT FEAST HELD IN THE COURT OF THE LORD OF TCHEBO, WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM THE GARISH AND PLEUBIAN FEASTS OF THE COMMONERS WITHOUT. NERANAIDES, THE LORD OF TCHEBO CONCEIVED OF THE MOST BIZARRE AND UNEARTHLY EFFECTS FOR HIS CELEBRATIONS AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION AS SPECTRAL ROSES OF CRYSTALLINE FLOATED DOWN UPON THE COURT AMID CHROMATIC FOUNTS OF LIGHT.



OUR LORD REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE BEFORE HIM



AFTER THREE DAYS WAIT TO SEE HIM!

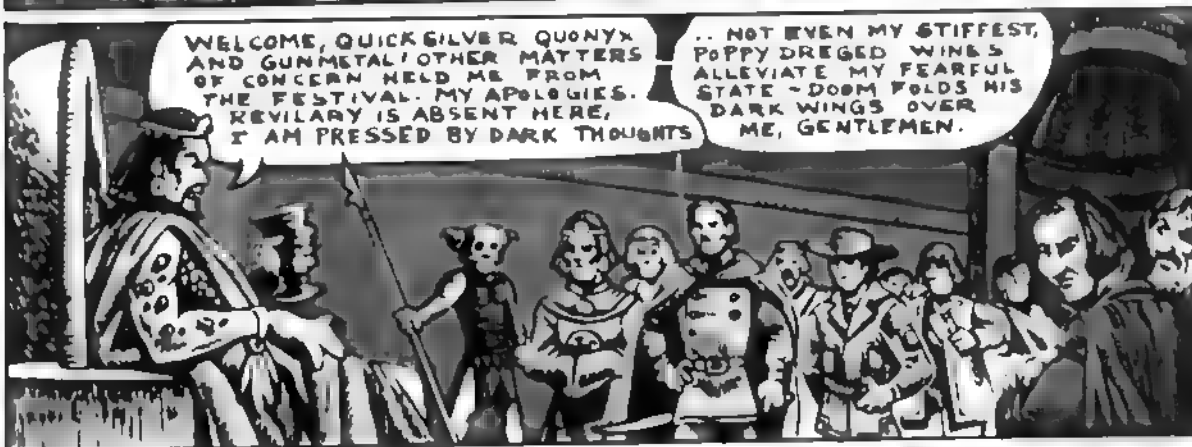
AND HE CALLS US AWAY FROM THIS WONDERFUL FESTIVAL AND TZHERAIN...

HERE WERE SOMBRE SPIRITS NOT THOSE RIGIDOUS PHANTASMS WITHOUT.



WELCOME, QUICKSILVER, QUONYX
AND GUNMETAL! OTHER MATTERS
OF CONCERN HELD ME FROM
THE FESTIVAL. MY APOLOGIES.
REVILARY IS ABSENT HERE,
I AM PRESSED BY DARK THOUGHTS

.. NOT EVEN MY STIFFEST,
POPPY DREGED WINGS
ALLEVIATE MY FEARFUL
STATE - DOOM FOLDS HIS
DARK WINGS OVER
ME, GENTLEMEN.



A MAGE,
ROODMOTH
URTHRUK, HAS
SPOKE TO ME
IN A DREAM
AND IT HAS
SHOWN THAT
A DOOM WILL
BEFALL ME..
SOMETHING IS
TO BE TAKEN
FROM ME.

SOME GHASTLY
MUTILATION? -
PERHAPS IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH A MAGIC
RITUAL!

SO I ASK
PROTECTION
AND AID
FROM YOU,
GENTLEMEN



MY LORD!
THEIR AID IS NOT WELCOME!
I OFFER MY SERVICES AS
ADVOCATE OF ARTONZ. DO YOU
WANT THE AID OF A BLOODY
MERCENARY AND A DUBIOUS
SCALDOR'S APPRENTICE WHO
CONSORTS WITH TREASON.
LICENTIOUS WOMAN AND
MEMBER OF THE REBELS
WHO PLOT AGAINST YOU!

A SUSPECTED
MEMBER, PRIEST -
WE AREN'T POSITIVE.
CERTAIN PARTIES DO
GROW FRACTIONOUS, AN-
OTHER ADDITION TO
MY ABOMINABLE
BLEAKNESS -
WHAT?!!



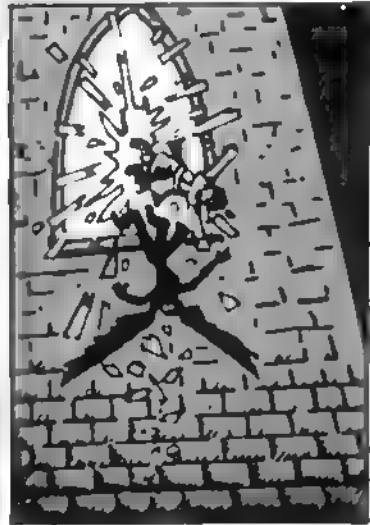
CRASH!

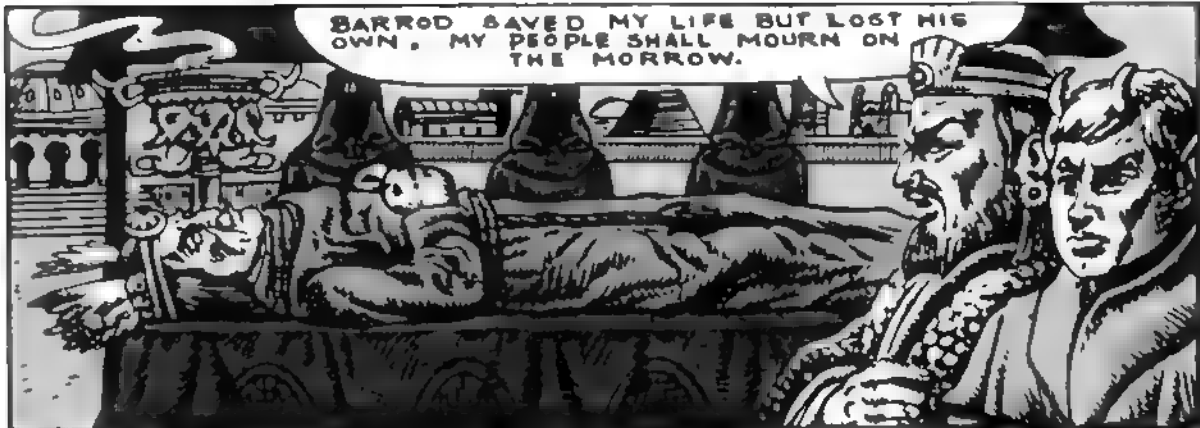


BLANG!



BARROD MISGUIDED HIS STEP AND RAN FULL INTO THE WRAITH AND THE TWAIN PLUNGED FROM THE HIGH WINDOW.



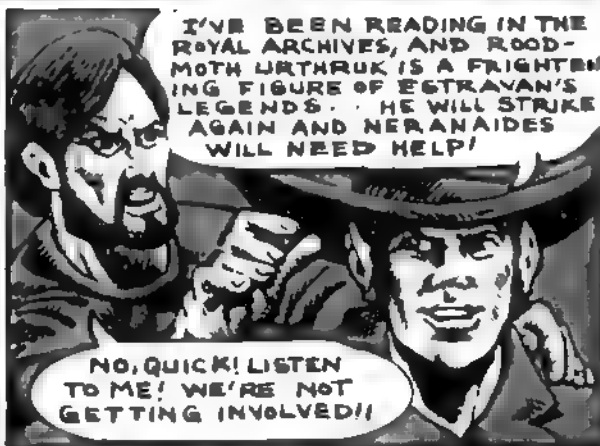


BARROD SAVED MY LIFE BUT LOST HIS OWN. MY PEOPLE SHALL MOURN ON THE MORROW.



WELL, THAT'S THAT! WE'LL ASK NERANAIDES IF WE CAN SEE THOSE MYSTERIOUS GOLD TABLETS ALMANDINE TOLD US OF.

AND OUR SEARCH WILL END. BUT I FEEL NERANAIDES' TROUBLES ARE ONLY BEGINNING!



I'VE BEEN READING IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES, AND ROOD-MOTH URTHRUK IS A FRIGHTENING FIGURE OF ESTRAVAN'S LEGENDS. HE WILL STRIKE AGAIN AND NERANAIDES WILL NEED HELP!

NO, QUICK! LISTEN TO ME! WE'RE NOT GETTING INVOLVED!!



THE WIZARD WE'RE AFTER IS STERNBLACK! ALMANDINE SAYS THOSE GOLD TABLETS WILL TELL THE LOCATION OF THE MAGIC STERNBLACK SEEKS! BY THE GODS, I'LL HELP YOU GET THAT MAGIC, BUT YOU'LL HELP ME GET THAT BOUNTY OFFERED FOR STERNBLACK!!

IF WE WANT THE TABLETS WE HAVE TO HELP NERANAIDES!



STILL AFTER THOSE GOLD TABLETS, QUICKSILVER?

AMBER!

IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT THOSE TABLETS AND YOUR GIRL FRIEND, TZHERAIN!



I'M WARNING YOU, QUICK! I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO HELP YOU, BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOUR FLIRTATIONS ENDANGER MY MERCHANT SHIPPING! THAT GIRL IS IN BAD COMPANY... THE COUNT SAYS...

BLAST YOUR COUNT! - I COULD TELL YOU OF HIS INTRIGUES! NOW WHAT ABOUT THE TABLETS?!



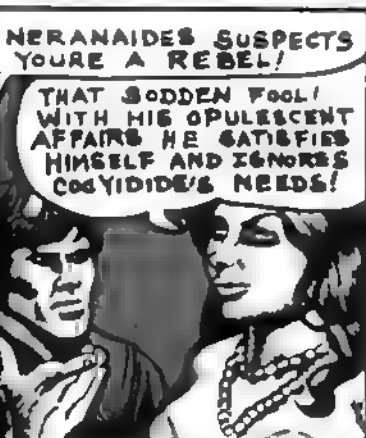
BLAST YOU YOURSELF! - THE TABLETS ARE GONE! THE COUNT SAID THEY WERE STOLEN A WEEK AGO!

STERNBLACK!!

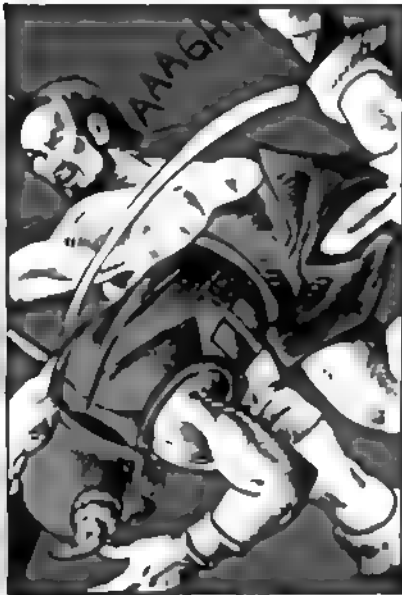
IT WAS THE WITCHING HOUR BEFORE
QUICKSILVER REACHED HIS ROOM...

WHO'S
THERE?!

IT IS I -
TZHERAIN.







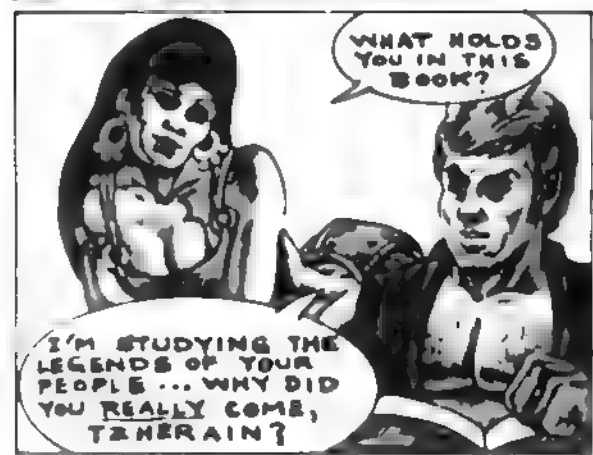
HIDING IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES QUICKSILVER FOUND AN ANCIENT TOME WHICH TOLD OF PREHISTORIC ESTRAVAN AND ITS ISLANDS... AND OF ROADMOTH UATHRUK



EXCLUDING THE HARBOUR GUARDS THE SHIP SLIPPED OUT OF COCYDIDES AND A SWIFT WIND SPED IT TOWARDS THE RISING SUN.



SO AS TZHERAIN GUNNED HERSELF ON THE DECK AND FLINT SEARCHED WAYS ON THE GREEN WATERS QUICKSILVER STUDIED AN ANCIENT BOOK



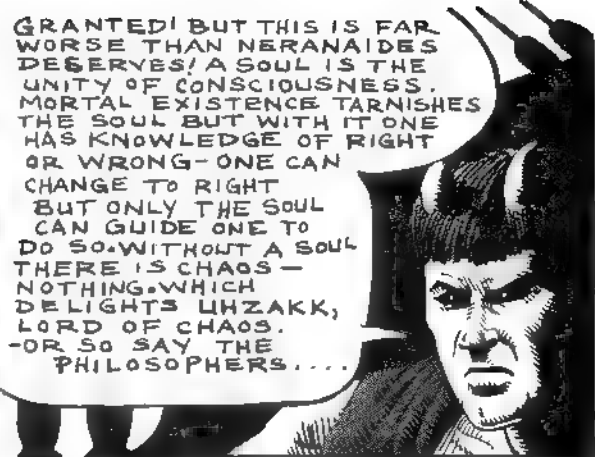
I'M STUDYING THE LEGENDS OF YOUR PEOPLE... WHY DID YOU REALLY COME, TZHERAIN?

NERANAIDES IS NOT DEAD...



NERANAIDE'S SOUL HAS BEEN STOLEN BY ROOD-MOTH URTHRUK FOR SOME FOUL PURPOSE I'M GOING TO GET IT BACK!

YOU'RE CRAZY! LET THAT WIZARD ALONE! -TCHEBO IS IN BETTER HANDS NOW!



GRANTED! BUT THIS IS FAR WORSE THAN NERANAIDE'S DESERVES! A SOUL IS THE UNITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. MORTAL EXISTENCE TARNISHES THE SOUL BUT WITH IT ONE HAS KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHT OR WRONG - ONE CAN CHANGE TO RIGHT BUT ONLY THE SOUL CAN GUIDE ONE TO DO SO. WITHOUT A SOUL THERE IS CHAOS - NOTHING WHICH DELIGHTS UHZAKK, LORD OF CHAOS. -OR SO SAY THE PHILOSOPHERS....



I'M IN NO MOOD FOR THEOSOPHICAL DISCOURSES, QUICKSILVER!



THEN FIGHT NERANAIDE - HE'S A VEGETABLE NOW! IT WOULD BE EASY - BUT WHAT A HOLLOW VICTORY!

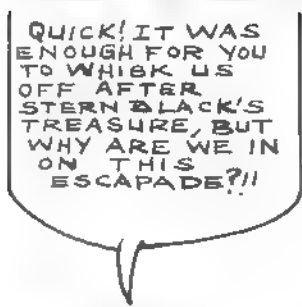


I WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS UNDESIRABLE'S MISGUIDED IDEALS, QUICK. WHY DON'T YOU THROW HER OVERBOARD!

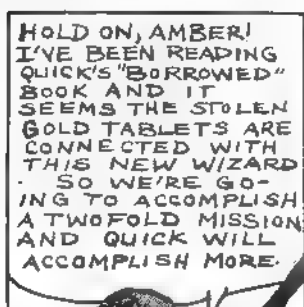
GUTTER WENCH!! I'LL RAKE YOUR PALE FACE OFF!!



STOP IT, YOU TWO!!



QUICK! IT WAS ENOUGH FOR YOU TO WHISK US OFF AFTER STERN BLACK'S TREASURE, BUT WHY ARE WE IN ON THIS ESCAPEDE?!!



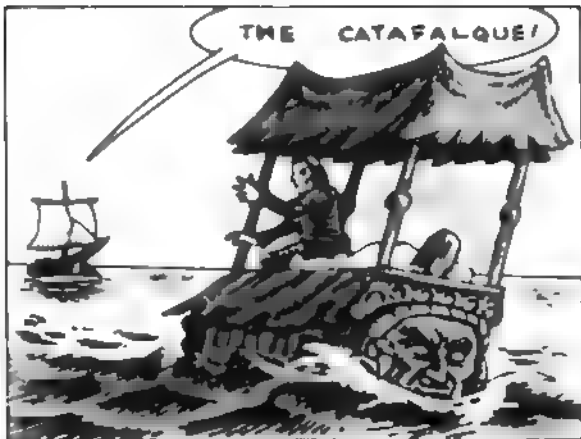
HOLD ON, AMBER! I'VE BEEN READING QUICK'S "BORROWED" BOOK AND IT SEEMS THE STOLEN GOLD TABLETS ARE CONNECTED WITH THIS NEW WIZARD. SO WE'RE GOING TO ACCOMPLISH A TWOFOOLD MISSION AND QUICK WILL ACCOMPLISH MORE.



YES.. ANOTHER MOVE IN THE GAME OF THE GODS! A BLOW AGAINST CHAOS. AND REVENGE FOR BARROD! I ALSO SERVE THE GOD ARTONZ!



SPEAKING OF BARROD, QUICK - LOOK!!

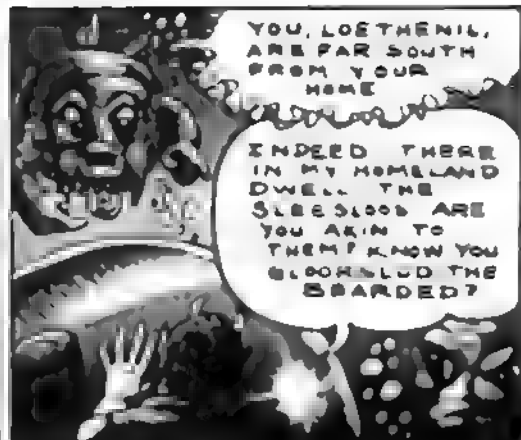


THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG, ROODMTH
URTHRUK'S RUSE HAD WORKED,
A TITANIC WAVE LEAPED AT
THE SHIP





YOU MAY BREATHE
IN OUR ELEMENT
BECAUSE OF OUR
CHARMS



YOU, LOESTHENIL,
ARE FAR SOUTH
FROM YOUR
HOME

INDEED THERE
IN MY HOMELAND
DWELL THE
SLEESLOOS ARE
YOU ASK TO
THEM? KNOW YOU
GROOMED THE
BEARDED?



AYE, MY COUSIN, HE!

WE ARE GRATEFUL -
YOU'VE SAVED OUR
LIVES!

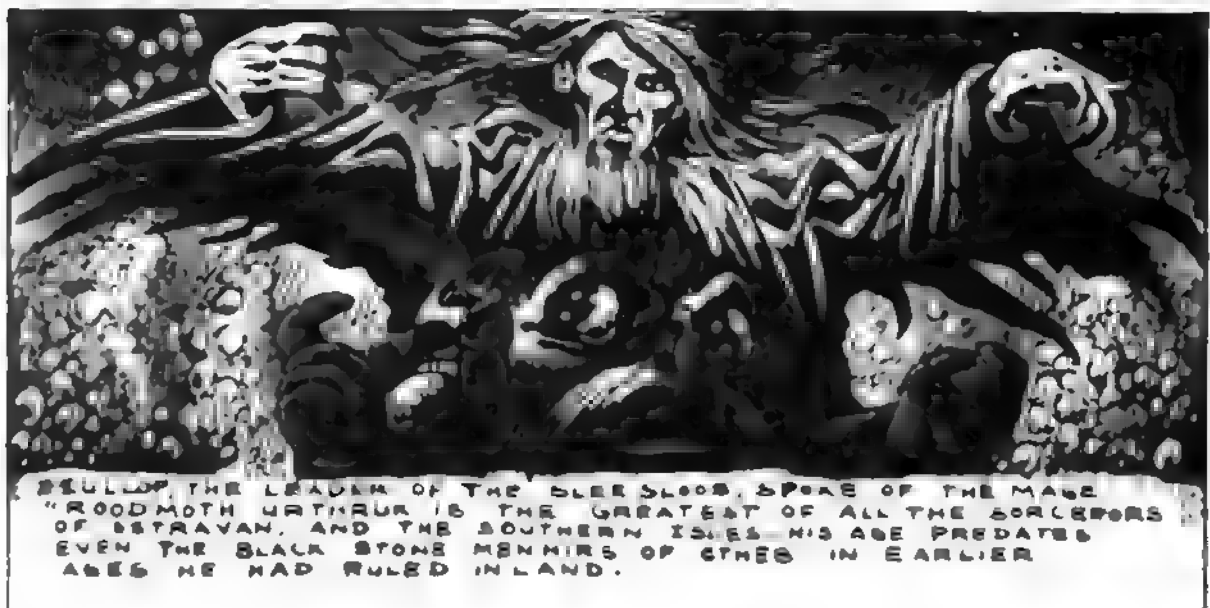


IT IS LEGEND THAT WE SLEESLOOS ARE
ALLIES OF MARINERS AND LOESTHENILS,
AIDING SHIPWRECKED SOULS



WE SEEK ROODMOTH
URTHUR'S FORTRESS
DO YOU KNOW WHERE
IT LIES?

AYE! BWARE
OF HIM!



BEULOP, THE LEADER OF THE SLEESLOOS, SPEAKS OF THE MAGE
"ROODMOTH URTHUR IS THE GREATEST OF ALL THE SOLEBORN
OF OSTRAVAN, AND THE SOUTHERN ISLES. HIS AGE PREDADES
EVEN THE BLACK STONE MENMIRS OF CYTH IN EARLIER
AGES HE HAD RULED INLAND.

ROODMOTH URTHRUK RULED INLAND ESTRAVAN FOR AGES, SOMETIMES HIMSELF, SOMETIMES THROUGH PUPPET RULERS HE SHRIVELED THE LANDS HE HELD WITH HIS FOUL MAGICS



CITIES BECAME DESERTED AND RUINED AND COVERED BY JUNGLES, YET STILL HE HELD SWAY WITH HIS FOUL ARMIES, UNTIL FINALLY, HE TOOK HIS NOBILIOUS KINGDOM INTO THE SEA.

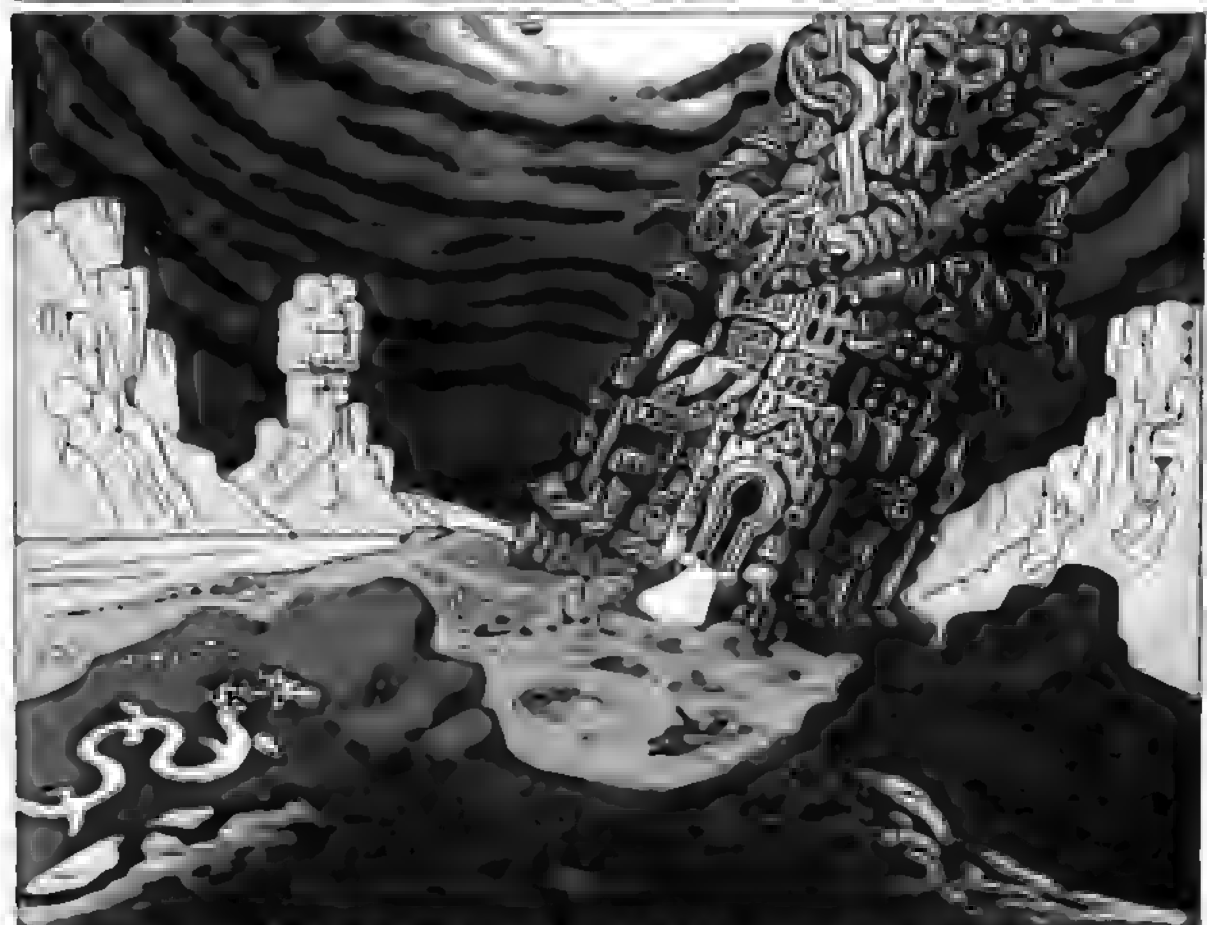


THERE IN THE OCEAN DEPTHS HE DREW VITALITY FROM THE SEA. NOURISHING HIS VILE PLANS THE FISH FOLK RALLIED AGAINST THE WIZARD AND HIS ARMIES WHO RAZED THE CORAL CITIES BRINGING TERROR AND DEATH TO THE GOOD SEA FOLK.

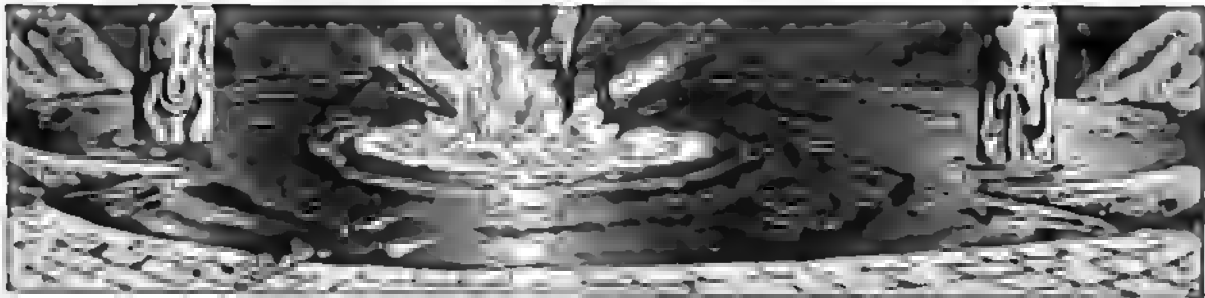


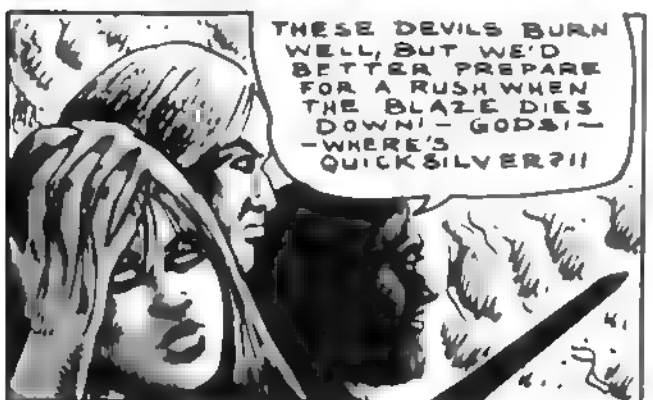
...AND ALWAYS BEHIND FOLLOWED GREAT SEAWORMS FROM SOME ABYSS DEPTHEED NECROPOLIS TO FEAST ON THE DEAD LEFT BEHIND LEAVING THE LAND WASTED AND IN THE WIZARD'S FORTRESS AN UNSEEN GREATER HORROR FED

HULLOP,
I'M AGAINST
THE WIZARD
TOO! LET
US JOIN
FORCES!



AS QUICKBROW SPED ON, BOOTHBY RAISED AN ARMY OF SLUGS TO ATTACK BOOTHBY WITHIN HIS UNHOLY PORTALS...







A JEWEL, UNPLAWED AND AGLIMMER, PULSING WITH LIFE,
THE LEGS OF A MAN...





WHILE QUICKSILVER FACED THE COSMIC TERROR ABOVE HIS FRIENDS FACED DEATH
BELOW. THE SLEER SLOBS MADE THEIR MOVE...



HULLOP'S ARMIES BROKE THROUGH THE NITEROUS STONE AND OPENED
WIDE THE FLOOD GATES OF THE SEA INTO THE CASTLE.



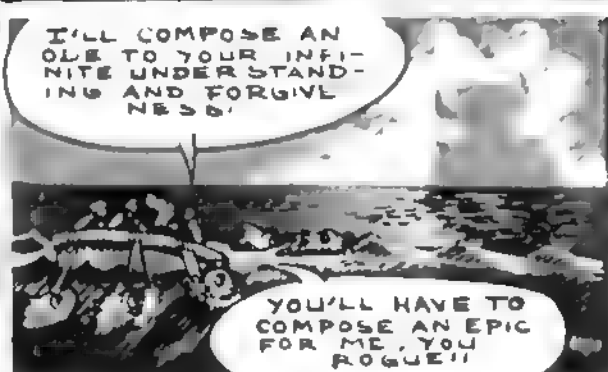
A SEED, I WAS BROUGHT FROM
THE BLACK STARS BEYOND
W'LNAKOO, AND BRED IN EARTH
HILLS AND THE SEA BEDS IT WAS
ROODMOTH URTHRUK'S TASK TO
CARE OVER MY CHANGING FORMS
UNTIL I WAS READY TO HATCH!



YOU, QUICKSILVER QUONYX
WERE BORN FOR ONE PURPOSE...
TO RELEASE ROODMOTH URTHRUK
FROM MY BONDAGE TODAY. HE
HAS WAITED THREE THOUSAND
YEARS YOU CAN NOT SLAY ME FOR
I AM A GOD... NOR CAN I SLAY
YOU... A DEMI-GOD... YES,
UNEARTHLY BLOOD FLOWS IN
YOUR VEINS!



AS IF TO AN AGE-OLD PRE-ARRANGED SIGNAL THE FORTRESS RISES FROM THE SEA BOTTOM TO THE CLEAR AIR ABOVE THE SURFACE AND THE SUMMIT DOME LIKE SOME EGG SPLITS OPEN IN A FOUL MEMBRANE, FREEING ALL WITHIN.





BBARRRRROOOM

AN INSTANT OF FIRE AND THUNDER AND SUPERNORMAL ENERGY, AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF WORMS AND GODS VANISHED FROM EIRVHIA FOREVER AS MULLOP AND THE SLBSLOOS TOWED THE HUMANS TO A DISTANT ISLAND THEY KNEW THE SEAS AGAIN HELD PEACE AND HOPE.

WHEN NERANAIDES REGAINED POSSESSION OF HIMSELF HE SAW HIS OPPONENTS' WAY AND ABNEGATED THE THRONE OF COLYDIDES FOR TCHEDO THERE WAS HOPE AND PEACE.

BUT FOR QUIKSILVER QUONYX, ANOTHER RIDDLE WAS ADDED TO MANY MORE.

THE
END

ANNOUNCING FULL COLOR LIMITED EDITION PRINTS BY **RICH CORBEN**



ANTICIPATION



MIDNIGHT BATTLE

- Large 14" x 11" Prints
- Suitable for Framing
- Printed in Full Spectrum Color
- On Heavy 10 pt. Coated Board
- Mailed flat with cardboard protection
- Ready for immediate mailing.
- Please specify by Title
- \$1.50 each print
- The Set for \$3.00

Make checks or money orders
payable to:
Sal Quartuccio
770 East 45th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11203

Copyright © 1974 Rich Corben and Sal Quartuccio

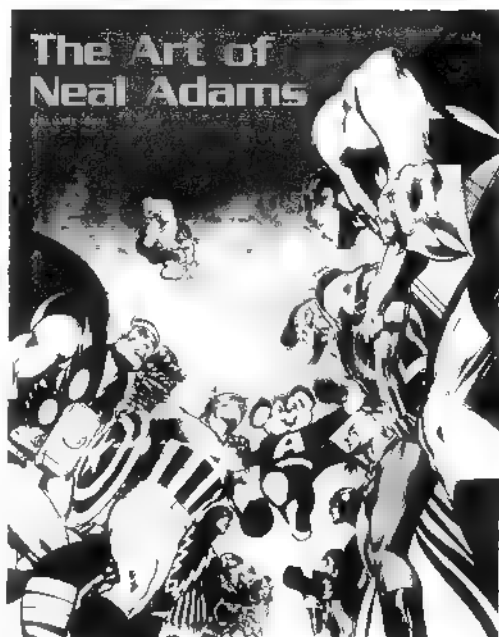






A PRE-ELECTION
DISCUSSION -

Tim Kirk
76



THE ART OF NEAL ADAMS

In the world of comic art, the name Neal Adams is among the most respected.

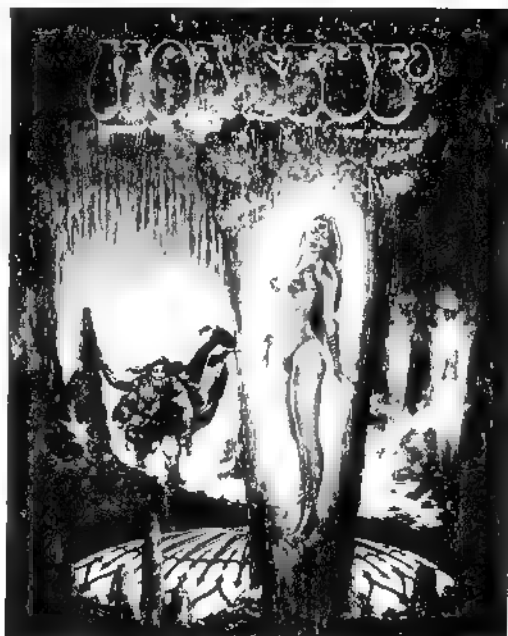
Just to say his name, people look up, and to put a page of his work in a magazine means instant sell-out, but, to get a collection as full and as rich as **THE ART OF NEAL ADAMS**, with artwork that hasn't been seen by fandom, and you've got a WINNER!

This book covers Neal's artistic endeavors from his early work in Boy's Life and Ben Casey, to his latest renditions of the Tarzan paperback covers, and all the many, varied points in between.

You get to see Neal's work in advertising, his posters for movies, and his own pet projects, that stand him far from the rest.

Now, to sell this, we could have just had Neal's art for the covers. But we went a step further. We got Rich Corben, master of the airbrush, to color the covers and give them that certain glow. The front cover: Marvel vs. DC, The Battle of the Century. And the back cover: The Spirit vs. The Octopus. Gorgeous wrapping for a great book, and all for only \$3.00. You can't find a better bargain than that!

\$3.00 plus 50¢ postage, mailed flat with cardboard protection.



HOT STUF NUMBER 2

From the people who brought you Hot Stuf #1, now comes **HOT STUF #2**, bigger, better, and more expensive, only because we wanted to bring you **THE BEST** in comic art fantasy.

Art by such greats as Adams, Barr, Corben, Kline, Maher, Manley, Morrow and Vosburg, to name only a few. But it all comes together, to make this one, 64 page book, with Full Color Covers.

The specially coated paper the book is printed on makes coloring it a real pleasure.

This book could sell for a lot more than it does, but we've worked to keep it down to \$4.00. Only \$4.00 for a book you'll treasure and enjoy for years. Mailed flat with cardboard protection.

\$4.00 plus 50¢ postage.





PRINCE VALIANT - by Gray Morrow

A full color vision of the power, the magic, the thrill that is Prince Valiant. 20x28 poster, mailed in protective tube.

\$3.00 plus \$1.00 postage.



HEROES - by Gray Morrow

These six 8½x11 full color plates of Hawkman, Black Terror, the Joker, Lone Ranger and Tonto, the Vigilante and Modesty Blaise seem to leap out at you, vibrant in their striking realism. Set of 6, mailed flat with protective cardboard.

\$3.00 plus 50¢ postage.



THE SCARECROW - by Bil Maher

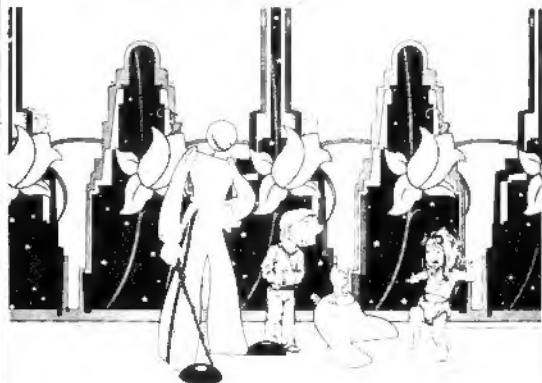
Behold the grim visage of the revenger - Scarecrow! Full color 11x14 print, mailed flat with cardboard protection.

\$1.50 plus 50¢ postage

MUFFY TUCK - by Bil Maher

Laugh and dance in the weird, whimsical world of Muffy Tuck. Limited edition print, 12½x15½ Black and White mailed flat with cardboard protection.

\$2.00 plus 50¢ postage.



The Official

STAR TREK CREW POSTER

by Ken Barr



Large Version: 20" x 28" printed in full color on 80- coated stock. Mailed in a sturdy mailing container. **\$4.00** [\$3.00 plus \$1.00 postage].

Small Version 11" x 14" printed in full color on 8 pt. coated board. Mailed flat with card-board protection. **\$2.00** [\$1.50 plus .50¢ postage].

SAL QUARTUCCIO • 770 East 45th St. • Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203



ARNOLD



Sir Real's

**UNDERGROUND
COMIX CLASSIX**

Hot Stuff #3

Published Winter 1976

1st Edition

Sal Quartuccio

\$1.50

60 pages

Print run of 7,000 copies

7" x 10"

ISBN:

Stories:

2 - Praeludium

3 - Eirvthia

9 - The Pawn

20 - The Dweller In The Dark

31 - The Feaster of Souls

53 - Full Color Limited Edition Prints (ad)

54 - untitled

55 - untitled

56 - A Pre-Election Discussion

57 - The Art of Neal Adams, Hot Stuff Number 2 (ads)

58 - Prince Vallant, Heroes, The Scarecrow, Muffy Tuck (ads)

59 - The Official Star Trek Crew Poster (ad)

Artists:

Sal Quartuccio (editor) - 53(ad)

Richard V. Corben - 1, 20-30(a,s+), 53(ad)

Herb Arnold - 2, 3-8(s), 20-30(s+), 31-52, 55, 60

Stan Dresser - 9-19, 54

Tim Kirk - 3-8(a), 66

Neal Adams - 57(ad)

Gray Morrow - 58(ad)

Bil Maher - 58(ad)

Ken Barr - 59(ad)

Bob Keenan - (Production Assistant)

Comments:

n/a